

### REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

Applicants have discovered that organic reactions that proceed using  $\text{OH}^-$  occur rapidly, with reaction times of 10-400 seconds, in water in the absence of any basic catalyst if the water is supercritical, or subcritical at at least  $350^\circ\text{C}$ .

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over J. Org. Chem., 1997, 62, 2505-2511 ("An"). An, discloses only that hot water (up to  $300^\circ\text{C}$ ) can be used as a reaction media, but even then, when used for, e.g., a Cannizzaro reaction, the traditional basic catalyst NaOH must be added. See, e.g., An at abstract, line 1; Table 1 (in particular, entry no. 36). An discloses reaction times of 10 minutes (= 600 seconds) or more, with the NaOH catalyzed Cannizzaro reaction of benzaldehyde taking 60 minutes (= 3600 seconds). An at Table 1 (in particular, entry no. 36). However, An fails to suggest the limitations of independent Claims 1 and 2 of a reaction "in the absence of catalyst without addition of any basic catalyst in supercritical water or subcritical water of at least  $350^\circ\text{C}$  with a reaction time of 10-400 seconds". Thus, An fails to have rendered obvious the claimed invention.

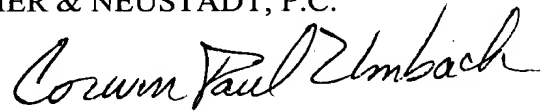
Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. In addition, Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. To obviate the rejections, Claims 1 and 2 are amended.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:

Marked-up copy of amendments



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HEREWITH

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-2 as follows.

1. (Twice Amended) A method of non catalytic organic synthesis in a reaction that proceeds [by basic catalysis] using OH<sup>-</sup>, which comprises performing said reaction in the absence of catalyst without addition of any basic catalyst in supercritical water or subcritical water of at least 350°C with a reaction time of 10-400 seconds, utilizing a supply of OH<sup>-</sup> from said water [as a substitute for said basic catalyst].

2. (Twice Amended) A method of increasing the reaction rate of an organic synthesis reaction that proceeds [by basic catalysis] using OH<sup>-</sup>, which comprises performing the organic synthesis reaction in the absence of catalyst without addition of any basic catalyst in supercritical water or subcritical water of at least 350°C with a reaction time of 10-400 seconds, utilizing a supply of OH<sup>-</sup> from said water [as a substitute for said basic catalyst].

Please add new Claims 19-20 as follows:

--Claims 19-20. (New)--